

Perry County Coal Corp. (Teco) Donates Supplies to Leslie County and Letcher County ATCs

Students in both the Kentucky Tech - Leslie County and Letcher County Area Technology Centers recently became recipients' of brand new welding and electrical technology supplies. Perry County Coal Corp., a TECO subsidiary, provided \$3,000 in supplies per program per school for a grand total of \$12,000.

Office of Career and Technical Education Deputy Executive Director Michael Kindred presented a plaque commemorating the donation to Paul Jackson, operations director; Tony Pennington, purchasing director; and Rhonda Reid, manager of Administration and Human Resource.



Photo (l to r): Leslie Co. ATC Principal Dwight Lewis, Letcher Co. ATC Principal Barbara Ison, Finley Begley, Kindred, Pennington, Reid, Jackson, OCTE Area Supervisor Barney Judd, and Education Cabinet Legislative Liaison Laurent Rawlings.

Once again, students have brand new hand tools, hard hats, welding helmets, cutting and safety glasses, welding wire, cable, lockout devices, switches, contactors, and relays to use in the classroom because of TECO's generosity. This is the second supply donation in less than one year.





*(l to r): Pennington
and Lewis*

“Some of our students bring back their first paycheck to show their instructor,” said Lewis. “We make a copy of the check and post it on the wall. To us, that’s a great way to promote TECO and the types of jobs our students can get.”

“What’s critical for businesses and industries like ours in Eastern Kentucky is programs like welding and electrical technology that are taught in these vocational technical centers,” said Jackson. “We understand the value of skilled employees. It’s important to keep skill levels up to the standard required by our industry and that’s why these centers are important to us. We believe in giving back to the community and TECO Coal is a good corporate citizen.”

“It’s a privilege to help these schools. We were able to get each program the supplies they needed,” said Pennington.

According to Reid, over 240 employees have been hired at TECO over the past year due to expansion. There are currently 48 additional positions to fill.

“Having schools in both counties is a real benefit for our area for both males and females,” said Reid. “We have hired some of our best electricians from Leslie Co.”

Photo (to r): Lewis and Ison during loading of supplies.

“When supplies are available, students can excel,” said Ison. “This donation will make it possible for students to have what they need to develop their technical skills. We appreciate what TECO has done for our students.”



“TECO has been a great supporter of our Kentucky Tech system and it’s because many employees come out of Leslie and Letcher counties,” said former Kentucky Tech Regional Director Finley Begley. “Supply donations are put to good use by instructors.”

Begley has knocked on the doors of businesses and industries for over 50 years to request supplies for students. Many schools continue to benefit as a result of his efforts.

Finley Begley



When area supervisor Barney Judd asked Jackson what kind of impact would there be if the training was not available, Jackson replied, “We would have to go out of the area to fill jobs.”

“Students who complete their technical education and skills training in electrical, industrial maintenance technology and welding programs are needed by TECO Coal because they learn how to repair electrical equipment, install, adjust or maintain machinery and know how to weld,” said Jackson. “We donate to these vocational-technical centers because that is where the bulk of our workforce comes from.”

High school students who desire to be educated, want to be employed, and who are capable of learning the skills benefit from the programs at these Kentucky Tech area technology centers, said Begley.

Without doubt, Kentucky Tech plays an important role in helping to train entry level skilled employees for TECO.

Good News Flash #246

**Office of Career and Technical Education
Education Cabinet**

June 5, 2008

